

**American Avocet and American Three-toed Woodpecker at Toronto.**—An Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) was shot on the eastern sandbar, Toronto, by Mr. C. K. Rogers, September 19, 1901. The bird was noticed feeding among a flock of plovers. It proved to be a male, and is the second Toronto record, the first being of a bird taken about fifteen years ago.

The American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides americanus*) was shot on Wells Hill, Toronto, November 16, 1901. It was seen in the company of another, probably its mate. The bird is a male, and is now in my collection. This is the first recorded specimen from Toronto, and a most unexpected occurrence so far away from the Muskoka District, into which it comes occasionally in the winter from further north, but, unlike *Picoides arcticus*, which has been recorded a number of times from the vicinity of Toronto, it does not seem ever to leave the shelter of the forest, and once suited will stay all winter within a very limited area, in isolated pairs. — J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Can.*

**Capture of the Mexican Jacana in Florida.**— Captain B. F. Hall, of the steamboat 'Naoma No. 3,' showed me the skin of a *Jacana spinosa* (Linn.), killed in October, 1899, on Pelican Bay, Lake Okechobee, Florida. — EDGAR A. MEARNS, *Fort Adams, Newport, R. I.*

**Note on the Name Colinus.**—Dr. Stejneger has recently called my attention to the use of the name *Colinus* by Goldfuss, whose reference has several years' priority over that of Lesson. The proper citation for this genus would appear to be: Goldfuss, *Handbuch der Zoologie*, II, 1820, 220; the type is '*Perdix mexicana*, Caille de la Louisiana, Pl. Enl. 149,' which is synonymized with *Tetrao virginianus* Linn.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

**Aquila chrysaëtos.**—The date of this combination is given in the A. O. U. 'Cheek-List' as Dumont, 1816, but I have met with several earlier references, the first being *Aquila chrysaëtos* Sprüngli, in *Andræ's 'Briefe aus der Schweiz,'* 1776, 196. — CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

**Occurrence of the Barn Owl in Canada.**—In the Bryant Collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy there is an American Barn Owl (*Strix pratineola*) taken by Mr. Louis Cabot at Long Point, Ontario, in early November, 1899. The specimen (No. 1482) was secured for the collection by Mr. H. B. Bigelow. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**Strix lapponica.**—The Lapp Owl was first described by Thunberg, K. Vet. Akad. nya Handl., XIX, 1798, 184, instead of by Retzius. — CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

**Snowy Owl and Golden Eagle at Plymouth, Michigan.**—A Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) was shot at Plymouth, Michigan, on December 4, 1901. It was a male bird, and its stomach contained no food.

Recently a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) was caught near here—the second one observed at this place. These birds are becoming quite rare in southern Michigan, and a law should be enacted for their protection, and not only for them but for several other species of our hawks and owls.—JAMES B. PURDY, *Plymouth, Mich.*

**The Hawk Owl in Massachusetts.**—I found lately in the Bryant Collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy two specimens of *Surnia ulula caparoch*. The label on one reads "Massachusetts, December 30, ♂." (No. 1524); on the other, "Massachusetts, ♂," (No. 1525). As no Massachusetts specimen has been recorded as taken on December 30, this bird is evidently unrecorded, and makes the thirteenth record for the State. The other specimen may be one of those already recorded of which we have no other data as to the capture.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Jr., *Longwood, Mass.*

**The Elf Owl as a California Bird.**—So far as I am aware the chief, if not the only, claim *Micropallas whitneyi* has in the literature to the rank of a California bird rests upon the type specimen. The paper (Proc. Calif. Acad. Nat. Sci., Vol. II, p. 118) containing the original description of this specimen is entitled 'New Californian Animals', but the locality given for the specimen is Fort Mojave, which was on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Positive evidence of the occurrence of this owl in California has recently come to my knowledge in an example (now No. 18298, Calif. Acad. Sci.) obtained April 20, 1898, by Mr. J. A. Kusche in San Bernardino County, the precise locality being about ten miles from San Bernardino on the old Toll Road, altitude about 2000 feet.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.*

**Unusual Abundance of Lewis's Woodpecker near Tucson, Arizona, in 1884.**—During the fall of 1884 Lewis's Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus torquatus*) appeared in large numbers in the Santa Cruz Valley, opposite Tucson, Arizona. Although I have been a resident of the place for about twenty-four years it was the only time I ever saw them in that neighborhood. The following concerning them is from my note-book of that date.

September 28. To-day I saw what appeared to be a large black woodpecker in the pomegranate groves west of town. It was wild and unapproachable. It kept much among the small trees.

September 29. To-day I fortunately secured the black woodpecker I saw yesterday. It proves to be a young female of *A. torquatus*. The cervical collar is entirely wanting. So far as I can remember it is the only one I ever met with in southern Arizona.